

REMARKS

Claims 4-7 remain in this application. Claims 1-3 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

An informality in claim 4 is eliminated above pursuant to comments provided by the Examiner in section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action. All of the claims in this application should now be in proper form.

Independent claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with claims 5-7, as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,597,200 to Gregory et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,902,014 to Dinkel et al. Reconsideration is requested.

Initially, it is respectfully submitted that modification to the Gregory et al. seat proposed by the Examiner is inappropriate. Modifying the Gregory et al. seat “such that the cushion has a miniature fan arranged in” the shaft 126 as the Examiner proposes is inappropriate and completely unnecessary in view of the already existing conditioned air flows, such as the air flows 105 shown in Figure 3, that are directed toward a seat occupant.

It is additionally apparent, for example from lines 55-68 in column 5 of the Gregory et al. patent, that the Gregory et al. seat is to have conditioned air enter the cushion 110 at an inlet 112 and be guided along channels 114 and into channels 121. Arranging a miniature fan in the shaft 126 to suck air into the shaft from around the cushion as the Examiner proposes would not be effective to guide air along the Gregory et al. channels 114, since these channels would be upstream of such a miniature fan. Nothing noted by the Examiner suggests that

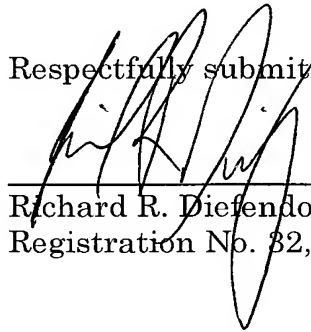
arranging a miniature fan arranged in the shaft 126 as proposed would result in any advantages or even be possible.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) set forth by the Examiner should be reconsidered and withdrawn for reasons discussed, and that claim 4 above is patentable. The rest of the claims in this application are dependent claims and are considered patentable as well.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.56028US).

Respectfully submitted,



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